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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: A.H. Christofferson et al. Examiner: Pham, Hung Q.
Serial No.: 09/409,613 Group Art Unit: 2172
Filed: October 1, 1999 Docket No.: RO999091
TITLE: METHOD, SYSTEM, AND PROGRAM FOR ACCESSING FILES IN A FILE
SYSTEM

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, P.O. Box 1450, VA 22313-1450 on July 24, 2003 on July 23, 2003.

David W. Victor

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION **RECEIVED**

SEP 03 2003

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Technology Center 2100

Dear Sir:

This paper is submitted in response to a Final Office Action ("Final Office Action") entered in the above case on April 23, 2003, in which the Examiner rejected all pending claims 1-39 as obvious (35 U.S.C. §103) in view of cited art. On July 1, 2003, the Examiner and attorney for Applicants held a phone interview to discuss the prior art rejections in the Final Office Action. Although no agreement was reached with respect to the pending claims, the Examiner suggested adding claims directed toward the subject matter disclosed on page 8, lines 16-20 of the Application. Applicants have added claims 41, 43, and 45 directed to the subject matter disclosed on page 8, lines 16-20. Applicants have also amended certain claims and added further claims. Applicants request the Examiner to enter these amendments after final for the reasons discussed herein. Applicants further traverse the prior art rejections and submit that all pending claims 1-45 are patentable over the cited art for the reasons discussed herein.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 13.